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## NORTH PACIFIC MARINE SCIENCE FOUNDATION NOAA Performance Report

**Grant Number:** NA16FX1434  
**Amount of Grant:** Federal: \$2,807,000  
**Project Title:** Research Into the Causes of the Steller Sea Lion Decline in the North Pacific - Steller Sea Lion Initiative  
**Grantee:** North Pacific Marine Science Foundation  
**Award Period:** September 01, 2001 - August 31, 2002  
**Report Period:** September 2001 - February 2002

### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND EXPENDITURES

The North Pacific Universities Marine Mammal Research Consortium continues to do research into what has caused the decline of Steller sea lions. Studies are undertaken in captivity, in the laboratory and in the field.

#### **Captive Studies:**

Expenses incurred during this period in undertaking general research at the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre were covered under NA96FX0124.

#### **Bioenergetics**

- The Postdoctoral Fellow position was posted and interested applicants will be interviewed in the near future.
- Two potential open water trainers were interviewed and one will be hired shortly.
- Once the Postdoctoral Fellow and Open Water trainer has been hired, the Open Water Technician will be hired.
- Pamela Rosenbaum, Foundation Administrator, arranged to attend the NOAA workshop in Long Beach, CA in April.

#### **Diet Quantification**

- This study was budgeted to begin as of July 2002.

### **Remote Passive Acoustic Monitoring of Killer Whales**

- Dr. John Ford, Principal Investigator, moved from the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Nanaimo, British Columbia.
- A Financial Assistance Award and Collaborative Agreement has been finalized and the actual study as proposed began in March 2002.

### **Killer Whale Predation on Steller Sea Lions in Western Alaska**

- Travel in September was postponed after September 11, 2002.
- Craig Matkin, Graeme Ellis and Lance Barrett Lennard attended the Marine Mammal Conference in Vancouver (November 2001).
- A Financial Assistance Award and Collaborative Agreement was signed with the North Gulf Oceanic Society to undertake part of this project. Craig Matkin prepared for the study (contracting vessels, field assistants, etc.).
- Craig Matkin made several presentations on the Killer Whale study (Marine Mammal Commission in November) and met with Andrew Trites in Anchorage in January.

To date no funds have been drawn down.